

City of Gresham
Natural Resources and Sustainability Council Advisory Committee ("NRSC")
Thursday, January 22, 2015
Gresham City Hall
Meeting Summary

Members:

<u>Present</u>	<u>Unable to Attend</u>
Chair Chris Bentley	Joe Blubaum
Jason Howard	Kurt Fuerstenau
Shannon Martin	
Councilor McCormick	
Tracy Thorson	

Staff: Dan Blue, Recycling and Solid Waste Manager

Guest: Kathy Minden, People for Parks

Chair Chris Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, requesting introductions. The summaries of the August 14, September 18, and December 11, 2014 meetings were reviewed and approved.

After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to move the monthly meetings back to the third Thursday of the month.

1. Announcements

Ms. Minden discussed efforts to enhance the health of the pollinator population, including the monarch butterfly pavilion at the Children's Garden, working with Ecumenical Ministries' Farm to Table Initiative, and East Multnomah Soil and Water. People for Parks is working to obtain grant funding to help with such efforts. She also addressed questions about the farmer's market and food co-op project at the former Fred Meyer site in Rockwood.

Mr. Blue made several announcements:

- The Thornton family was the winner of one year of garbage service, offered as a promotion for the GoCart! garbage and recycling reminder service. A second contest is now in progress.
- The second cogen engine at Gresham's wastewater treatment plant is now active, which makes the treatment plant "net zero" for energy use.
- The next Green Clean event is March 7th. Information on volunteering is available at GreshamOregon.gov.
- City Council recently approved a three year utility rate increase package, which will provide some stability for the utilities' operations.
- *The March*, a documentary that captures the events of the August 1963 March on Washington, will be screened in Council Chambers in the near future. Notices will be sent to those who are interested.
- Gresham solid waste haulers have noted several incidents recently of people sleeping in dumpsters.

- Information on the City's upcoming homeless count was distributed – volunteers are needed.

Mr. Howard reported that he has been appointed to Metro's steering committee for the Powell Division Corridor. A public session will be held at Gresham City Hall on February 12.

2. Rockwell Collins Grant Opportunity

Mr. Martin reported that a grant for nonprofits and government agencies to fund environmental improvements is available. Information is available at rockwellcollins.com/greencommunities.

3. Hogan Butte Nature Park Grant – Letter of Support

Chair Bentley introduced a letter to be submitted by the NRSC in support of the Hogan Butte Nature Park Grant. Ms. Thorson made a motion to approve and submit the letter. The motion was carried by voice vote.

4. NRSC Annual Report to Council draft

Chair Bentley discussed his planned presentation of the annual report to City Council on February 3. The report will include the committee's past achievements and future goals. He will focus on the Sustainability Report, in preparation for presenting that report at a later Council meeting. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Action item: Chair Bentley will send a draft of his presentation to the Committee for review.

5. Revisit Springwater Proclamation request for endorsement

Chair Bentley requested the Committee's feedback on the endorsement request that was received at the December 2014 meeting. The Committee agreed that parks should be a priority, and **recommends that the City evaluate funding mechanisms for a parks district.**

6. Other Business

Chair Bentley noted that Mr. Blue is working on a draft of the Sustainability Report, to be reviewed at the February meeting.

Action item: Mr. Blue to prepare a draft for the February 19 meeting.

Chair Bentley provided an update on NRSC recruitment efforts and reminded members to invite interested acquaintances to apply. The committee discussed holding events that might draw the attention of interested citizens.

Action item: **Mr. Martin and** Ms. Thorson to contact MHCC regarding the possibility of student involvement.

February agenda item: Consider options for a sustainability event or workshop.

7. Adjournment

Chair Bentley adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

NOTE: This meeting was recorded in its entirety. Contact Dan Blue to obtain a digital recording.